

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A compact, self-contained, personal key is disclosed. The personal key comprises a USB-compliant interface releaseably coupleable to a host processing device operating under command of an operating system; a smartcard processor
5 having a smartcard processor-compliant interface for communicating according to a smartcard input and output protocol; and an interface processor, communicatively coupled to the USB-compliant interface and to the smartcard processor-compliant interface, the interface processor implementing a translation module for interpreting USB-compliant messages into smartcard processor-compliant messages and for
10 interpreting smartcard processor-compliant messages into USB-compliant messages.

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